(b) 14 major and 25 medium irrigation projects with the estimated cost of Rs. 4775 crores and ultimate irrigation potential of about 2427 thousand hectares are under construction at present

Lifting of Pricing and Distribution Control on Aluminium Metal

1005. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government lifted pricing and distribution control on aluminium metal w.e.f. 1st March, 1989;

(b) whether it is also a fact that primary producers of aluminium have represented to Government for levy of duty on import of aluminium ingots;

(c) whether Government have considered the representation favourably; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) It is a fact that Government decontrolled the price and distribution of aluminium with effect from the 1st March, 1989.

(b) to (d) The information in this regard is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Opening of New Bank Branches in Tribal Compact Areas in Tripura

1006. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the banks which have not opened a single new branch in tribal compact areas in Tripura in the financial year 1988-89 and 1989-90 (upto May, 1989);

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government will give instructions to these banks in Tripura to open new branches in tribal compact areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there is no such bank which has not opened any branch in Tripura. Out of 45 authorisations issued to banks for opening branches in rural and semi-urban areas of Tripura banks have opened branches at 12 centres. Of these, as per the information available with RBI, banks have opened 10 branches during the financial year 1988-89 upto 30.2.1989. Due to lack of basic infrastructural facilities, banks have not been in a position to open the branches at the remaining centres expeditiously.

(c) RBI has set up Task Forces at its Regional Offices to monitor closely the progress made by banks in opening offices at the allotted centres and ensure expeditious utilisation of the licences issued to banks and to consider proposals for substitution and reallocation of centre etc. RBI has also taken up the matter with Chief Secretaries of State Governments for providing basic infrastructural facilities expeditiously to enable banks to open their branches at the allotted centres.

Central Scheme for the Development of Forests in Orissa

1007. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under central Government's consideration to launch a special scheme for the development of forests in Orissa; and